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DRAFT REPORT OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE FOR PROGRAMME MATTERS ON ITS IN-SESSIONAL MEETING HELD DURING THE THIRTY-NINTH SESSION OF THE GOVERNING COUNCIL, 4-29 MAY 1992

Rapporteur: Mr. Luis ESPADA-PLATET (United States)

Addendum

CHAPTER V. COUNTRY AND INTERCOUNTRY PROGRAMMES AND PROJECTS

A. Africa

(continued)

Comoros

1. The Officer-in-Charge, Regional Bureau for Africa (RBA), presented the fourth country programme for Comoros (DP/CP/COI/4). The programme will entail indicative planning figure (IPF) of $11.1 million and other resources of UNDP-administered funds of $7.2 million from the United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF), the Management Development Programme (MDP) and the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM).

2. UNDP cooperation will be concentrated in four areas of concentration: (a) economic management, including administrative reform; (b) private sector development; (c) eco-agriculture; and (d) health. The preparation of the

country programme had been carried out in close consultation with other donors, who are providing complementary assistance in a number of areas, particularly in economic management and private sector development.

3. The representative of the Comoros thanked UNDP for its collaboration and underlined the difficult challenges that the Government was facing: structural adjustment and the move towards a multi-party democracy. His country depended upon UNDP assistance in meeting these challenges.

4. The Standing Committee recommended that the Governing Council approve the fourth country programme for Comoros.

The Gambia

5. The Office-in-Charge, RBA, presented the fifth country programme for the Gambia (DP/CP/GAM/5), which envisaged IPF resources of $23.6 million, cost-sharing of $0.1 million and UNDP-administered funds of $12.2 million from UNCDF, the United Nations Sudano-Sahalian Office (UNSO), UNIFEM and the Special Programme Resources (SPR).

6. UNDP cooperation will be concentrated in the following four areas: (a) agricultural diversification and environmental and natural resources management; (b) economic management; and (c) poverty alleviation.

7. It was mentioned that notable progress had been made in the Gambia in applying the programme approach; for example, in assisting the Government in the formulation of the economic management capacity-building programme, and in the design of appropriate UNDP assistance. Coordination was also being facilitated by preparatory work for the next round-table conference scheduled for July 1992.

8. Three delegations spoke in support of the programme. One delegation commended the sound analytical basis of the programme, which was consistent with the Government's policy framework paper. The delegation also noted that while UNDP was active in the exchange of information, real coordination needed strengthening, particularly with the European Economic Community (EEC), and between the economic management capacity-building programme and the African Capacity-Building Initiative (ACBI), and the proposed National Long-term Perspectives Studies (NLTPS).

9. A representative of one delegation commended the coordination that had taken place, particularly in conjunction with the bilateral cooperation between the Gambia and his own country and in the context of the structural adjustment programme. The delegation urged, however, that the lessons of the

fourth cycle should be fully applied in the fifth and that further precision was required on the percentage of projects under national execution and on the allocation of funds by area of concentration.

10. Another representative commended the close complementarity between the country programme and the bilateral programme financed by his own country in the area of agricultural diversification and environmental and natural resources management but expressed concern at the large number of objectives - 10 in all - with no precise financial allocations for each one.

11. In response, the Officer-in-Charge acknowledged the comments made, gave assurances that UNDP was ready to continue its support for economic management capacity-building beyond the fifth cycle and said that UNDP would take appropriate follow-up action on suggestions made.

12. The Standing Committee recommended that the Governing Council approve the fifth country programme for the Gambia.

Lesotho

13. The Resident Representative presented the fifth country programme for Lesotho (DP/CP/LES/5), which entailed an IPF of $19.6 million, cost-sharing of $0.7 million and UNDP-administered funds of $14.3 million from UNCDF, SPR, UNIFEM and the United Nations Volunteers programme (UNV). UNDP cooperation would be focused on three main areas of concentration: (a) economic and social planning and financial management; (b) human resources development; (c) employment promotion; and (d) rural development.

14. The representative of the Government confirmed that the country programme synchronized well with the Government's objectives and national plan.

15. One delegation remarked that a total of 13 programmes were envisaged in the four areas of concentration and noted that, in view of the limited IPF, a more focused approach might be required.

16. Another delegation also noted the relatively large number of programmes and, while commending efforts to reduce the number of projects from 25 to 13, recommended further concentration. The delegation also noted the large number of long-term UNV specialists, many of whom occupied posts that should normally be filled by nationals. It therefore recommended that conditions be reviewed with a view to encouraging qualified nationals to remain in the country and to return from abroad, particularly from South Africa. UNDP should pay

particular attention to training in areas of critical shortage, so as to reduce dependence on United Nations volunteers, and to the training of national programme managers.

17. In response, the Resident Representative provided clarifications and agreed to follow-up as appropriate on the comments made.

18. The Standing Committee recommended that the Governing Council approve the fifth country programme for Lesotho.

Mali

19. The Officer-in-Charge, RBA, introduced the fifth country programme for Mali (DP/CP/MLI/5) which envisages IPF resources of $60.4 million, and UNDP-administered funds of $37.2 million (UNCDF, UNSO, SPR and UNIFEM). The country programme has two main areas of concentration: (a) the satisfaction of basic needs and (b) improved management of the development process.

20. He mentioned the rigorous process of preparation undertaken and its consistency with the country's economic policy framework paper, a current national technical cooperation assessment and programmes (NATCAP) exercise, and a number of national initiatives being undertaken relating to education, women and children, and rural development, with particular reference to the Tuareg population. He also mentioned that the country programme had been endorsed by the transitional Government and would in due course be reviewed by the new Government.

21. Two delegations made comments on the country programme. One considered that the programme was well focused, with an appropriate emphasis on capacity-building. It recommended that that emphasis be extended to assistance to the private sector, and include credit schemes. The capacity of the field office was commented upon favourably, particularly its use of national expertise. The coordination role of UNDP could be strengthened, however, in terms of taking more initiative in the areas of the social dimensions of adjustment, human development and involvement of the village associations. The delegation questioned the priority given to civil aviation, tourism and telecommunications, and why there was apparently little given to women in development. It also remarked on an apparently high programme reserve (15 per cent).

22. Another delegation supported the programme and its overall approach, noting in particular its support for economic management, the environment, and the private sector.

23. In reply, the Officer-in-Charge, RBA, provided clarifications and promised to follow up on the comments received. He mentioned that the high programme reserve was due to the need for flexibility for the next Government. He also explained that women-in-development activities would be encouraged even if they were not fully reflected in the document.

24. The Standing Committee recommended that the Governing Council approve the fifth country programme for Mali.

Seychelles

25. The Officer-in-Charge, RBA, introduced the fourth country programme for the Seychelles (DP/CP/SEY/4), which has an IPF of $1.03 million for activities in two main areas: (a) human resources development and (b) environmental management.

26. The Standing Committee recommended that the Governing Council approve the fourth country programme for the Seychelles.